

Commitment procedures for the chemically dependent
(HB 1084 by Madla/Barrientos)

DIGEST: HB 1084 would have repealed the current statutes governing voluntary and involuntary commitment procedures for alcohol- or drug-dependent individuals. Alcohol and drug abuse would have been defined as chemical dependency, and the bill would have consolidated voluntary and involuntary commitment procedures for chemical dependency. It also would have required the Texas Commission on Alcohol and Drug Abuse to receive, control and distribute all federal public funds for alcohol and substance abuse and chemical dependency services in this state.

GOVERNOR'S
REASON
FOR VETO:

The governor said HB 1084 would provide that the Texas Commission on Alcohol and Drug Abuse receive, control and distribute all federal funds for alcohol and substance abuse and chemical dependency services. "The effect of this bill would be to remove the Governor's Office from its current role of administering these federal funds."

AUTHOR'S
VIEW:

Rep. Frank Madla said the Governor's Office misunderstood the concept of the bill. Madla said, "The Governor's Office does not understand current law and their role. This bill would have brought the language in the statute up-to-date and simplified the commitment procedure for drug treatment from five steps to one." Rep. Madla said under current statute all funds go to the Texas Commission on Alcohol and Drug Abuse. The governor would still receive federal funds for chemical dependency abuse and services under HB 1084 and send the funds to the appropriate agency. Rep. Madla said the bill was not intended to change the governor's role.

NOTES: HB 1084 passed the House on the Consent Calendar and was not analyzed in a Daily Floor Report.